

What is claimed is:

- October 29, 2003  
John G. Fisher, Jr.
1. An endless steel band for belt presses, especially double belt presses, with a thickness of between 2 mm to 4 mm, preferably 2.5 mm to 3.5 mm, that is <sup>turned around</sup> ~~applied~~ on drums of the belt press, and whose surface has a maximum medium roughness of up to RZ 50.5  $\mu\text{m}$ ; a plurality of depressions being provided, starting from a surface of the steel band and extending into the steel band, wherein the depressions are substantially evenly distributed, and the depressions extend inwardly 200  $\mu\text{m}$  to 600  $\mu\text{m}$  from the surface of the steel band.
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2. The endless steel band according to claim 1, characterized in that, in addition to the depressions of 200  $\mu\text{m}$  to 600  $\mu\text{m}$  deep, further depressions of less than 200  $\mu\text{m}$  deep are also provided.
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3. The endless steel band according to claim 1, characterized in that each of the depressions, measured on the surface of the steel band, has a cross sectional area of at least 2  $\text{mm}^2$ .
4. The endless steel band according to claim 3, characterized in that the cross sectional
- 20 area is at least 3  $\text{mm}^2$ .
5. The endless steel band according to claim 1, characterized in that at least one of the depressions extends into the surface of the steel band following a direction that represents a continuously <sup>and</sup> differentiable curve in a cross section normal to the surface of the steel band.
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6. The endless steel band according to claim 1, characterized in that at least one of the depressions has a curved bottom having a continuously <sup>and</sup> differentiable curve in a cross section normal to the surface of the steel band.

2 and/or 3  
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7. The endless steel band according to claim 1, characterized in that at least one of the depressions in a cross section parallel to the surface of the steel band is circle-shaped.

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8. The endless steel band according to claim 1, characterized in that at least one of the depressions in a cross section parallel to the surface of the steel band is oblong-shaped..

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9. The endless steel band according to claim 8, characterized in that the depressions are arranged in lines that are parallel to one another.

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10. The endless steel band according to claim 9, characterized in that the depressions of two adjacent lines form an angle less than  $180^\circ$ .

11. The endless steel band according to claim 10, characterized in that the angle is less than  $160^\circ$ .

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12. The endless steel band according to claim 1, characterized in that the depressions are made by stock removal.

13. The endless steel band according to claim 1, characterized in that the depressions are produced by rolling, preferably cold rolling.

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14. A weldable round plate for replacing defective areas of the steel band according to claim 1, characterized in that the round plate has a plurality of depressions corresponding to the steel band.

5 15. Use of an endless steel band according to claim 1 for the production of plates, preferably wood-based plates, with elevations.

16. The use of an endless steel band according to claim 15 for the production of chipboard with elevations.

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17. The use of an endless steel band according to claim 16, characterized in that the chipboard has a plurality of chips with a length from about 120 mm to about 300 mm and preferably a thickness from 0.5 mm to 2.5 mm.

15 18. The use of an endless steel band according to claim 16, characterized in that the chipboard has chip layers parallel to one another.

19. Use of an endless steel band according to claims 1 for the production of plates from plastic, including acrylates, with elevations.